

REF 4-1

2 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Research and Reports
FROM: Chief, Geographic Research
SUBJECT: GRA Activity Report for the Month of February 1960

A. Research and Technical Support Activity

1. The Geography Division completed and disseminated one Geographic Intelligence Memorandum (GM 60-2, Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia); seven Geographic Intelligence Reports (GR L-60-1, Cuba: Parts III, V, VII, X, XII, XIV, XV); and 23 Geographic Support Projects in the GP series. Among the GP projects were three contributions to the EIS program and ten items in support of an I/GM project.

2. The Cartography Division accepted requests for 163 maps and charts and completed 110. Total jobs in the Division at the end of February were 533, versus 480 in January. The Division completed the first phase of the Cuba project being undertaken in cooperation with D/GG. Maps were completed for two special projects for the Economic Area: three maps and three charts for EIC R-14, and four maps and four charts for the [REDACTED] Conference to be held in June.

3. The Map Library Division forwarded 28,683 items to requesters in response to 2,123 requests for maps, related geographic publications and reference information. Requests filled included 14 for maps needed in connection with the President's trip to South America and those for maps and charts for the use of the Department of State delegate to the Law of the Sea Delegation in Geneva, Switzerland. Significant items procured from foreign sources during the month included various 1959 city plans and economic maps of the Soviet Zone of Germany; a 1959 map of Soviet Central Asia and Kazakhstan; a new administrative division map of Czechoslovakia; and 25 recent Russian hydrographic charts of Antarctica.

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4. Support provided the [REDACTED] resulted in the completion of all but 4 of the 35 maps scheduled for calendar year 1959. Completion of the remaining four is anticipated in March. However, D/GG has been asked to supply reproduction support for the completion of town plans now being drafted [REDACTED] which their reproduction facilities will be unable to handle.

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5. A Five-Year Summary of Map Procurement, 1955-1959, showed a total of 286,742 map sheets procured. Of these, 35% were for AMS, 34% for CIA, 21% for the Library of Congress, and the remaining 10% for various other Government mapping agencies. Purchases accounted for 46% of the total procurement; exchanges for 37%; and gifts for 17%. Procurement from the Soviet Bloc totaled almost 10,000 sheets, three times the procurement in the previous five-year period. Outside the Sino-Soviet Bloc, the deficiencies in procurement were chiefly in areas not regularly visited by Geographic Attaches.

6. Upon request of the Technical Services Division, Department of Commerce, the Atlas of Communist China Administrative Units was sent to Reproduction for rerun. A total of 500 copies have been requested -- 200 for public sale and 300 for reserve. The delivery date is scheduled for 21 March.

B. Planning and Development

1. As a result of CIA estimates of Soviet threats to U.S. pre-eminence in Antarctica -- as well as CIA representations on the need for a U.S. mapping program to strengthen the future U.S. position, plans are now being developed for the first systematic U.S. mapping program in Antarctica. [REDACTED] has been invited to participate with a special ad hoc subcommittee to draft a statement on this program.

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2. As an outgrowth of previous negotiations [REDACTED] plans were completed to review and exploit [REDACTED] materials on West China held by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Geography Division, will conduct the review and, through the [REDACTED] arrange for the typing and photostating support required.

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3. Arrangements have been made to have all Geography Division reports (exclusive of the MIS) typed in final form in St/P. St/P/G will call on Chief, St/P, for typing assistance when the load is such that [REDACTED] publications typist, cannot handle it. Except when St/P cannot provide the augmentation needed, only draft typing will be performed in D/GG. The D/GG front office will continue to handle final processing, including corrections, running off ditto copies, and report assembly.

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4. Initial exploration of two proposed external research projects was begun by the Geography Division during the month. In the case of the proposed PI keys for Southeast Asia and Africa, discussions were held with PIC and, subsequently, with USAF. It appears that subject keys rather than area keys are of most interest to the community at present. In addition, the work is considerably more expensive than was envisioned in the original proposal. PIC and USAF agree, however, on the legitimacy of the ORR proposal and further discussion will be held with PIC relative to their participation in the development of the project and the formulation of official inquiry as to USAF and Army interest. In the case of the proposed research project on African subjects, [REDACTED] is surveying African Roundtable membership as to its views on priority needs, feasible contractors, and related matters.

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5. A conference was held with representatives of AMS to consider undertaking the reproduction of the Asia 1:5 million series of maps being prepared under contract with [REDACTED]. At present, the Cartography Division is awaiting a response to their request.

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6. Preliminary inquiry was made of [REDACTED] regarding contractual work to construct a series of special bases which are necessary to fill gaps in D/GC base map requirements. The project, if acceptable [REDACTED] would involve the preparation of three equatorial stereographic maps, two oblique gnomonic maps, and twelve azimuthal equidistance maps.

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7. [REDACTED] will arrive in the United States on 28 March for consultation prior to home leave.

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C. Significant Outside Contacts and Activities

1. Chief/G and Chief, D/GG, met with Col. Haberer, Technical Division, ACSI, to request special AMS support on the Cuba project. ACSI accepted the job, but on delivery by AMS it has proved to be of limited quality -- due apparently to a slow start and communications failures in the OCE-AMS planning staffs. Arrangements have now been made with WH whereby D/GG will provide priority "beef-up" as may be required.

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Also, he summarized the Soviet Antarctic activities with particular emphasis on the Soviet geodetic and gravimetric traverse, its contribution to the Soviet World Geodetic System, and its implications for increased future use of Antarctica for space research and missile impacting on Antarctic ice.

3. At the direction of the MIS Committee, a meeting of the Chapter IX Subcommittee was held on 4 February to discuss possible revision of the Chapter IX format. The discussion was limited to basic ideas and principles, and several ideas for a complete reorganization of the Chapter were advanced. The Subcommittee agreed that a survey of Chapter IX readership would be helpful in formulating revision proposals, and it appointed an ad hoc group to develop a supporting questionnaire. Subsequently, however, the Chairman was informed by [REDACTED] that OBI would not countenance questionnaires, and the ad hoc group was disbanded. The Subcommittee will reconvene on 11 March to examine revision possibilities in more detail. 25X1A9a

4. Intelligence analyses and estimates prepared by [REDACTED] for OCB resulted in the U.S. Navy's effecting an icebreaker penetration of the hitherto impenetrable Bellingshausen Sea and landing a party on Thurston Peninsula before the Soviets could attempt an anticipated sea-air landing. 25X1A9a

5. The Southeast Asia Discussion Group held a regular monthly meeting at which [REDACTED] of D/GC presented a selection of slides with appropriate commentary on Southeast Asian areas. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
OCI, succeeds [REDACTED] as Chairman. 25X1A9a

25X1A9a 6. [REDACTED], Senior Research Staff, DD/I, presented an analysis of the Communist attitude toward Africa at the February meeting of the Africa Roundtable.

25X1A2g 7. Chief, Development and Construction Branch, D/GC, spent two days at ACIC, St. Louis, while enroute to a 10-day assignment at an [REDACTED]. The purpose was to discuss technical and substantive aspects of a special Agency map requirement which is being prepared by the Air Force.

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8. Questions raised by [REDACTED] regarding the interest of the United States in giving mapping assistance to Syria were discussed with representatives in ACSI and the Air Force, and with the Department of State Desk Officer.

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9. Meetings were held by Map Library Division personnel with ICA [REDACTED] Desk Officers to discuss proposed aerial photography and mapping projects. The project [REDACTED] which would result in aerial photography and geological mapping for a large part of the Western [REDACTED] will probably be implemented soon. The proposed project for aerial mapping of [REDACTED] not receiving strong ICA support, primarily because of a shortage of funds.

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D. Problems

1. Due to the impact of the Cuban project, the short deadlines on ERA work, and the Territorial Seas project, the Cartography Division failed to meet certain previously committed deadlines. Also, these rush projects required an almost excessive use of overtime in certain components of the Division.

2. For the second year in succession, specialized mathematical cartography courses offered by the ISNA Graduate School have been cancelled because the minimum enrollment quotas were not met. The need for this specialized training is becoming more important in the Branch to keep abreast of technical developments in cartography, and some other means of obtaining the training may have to be devised.

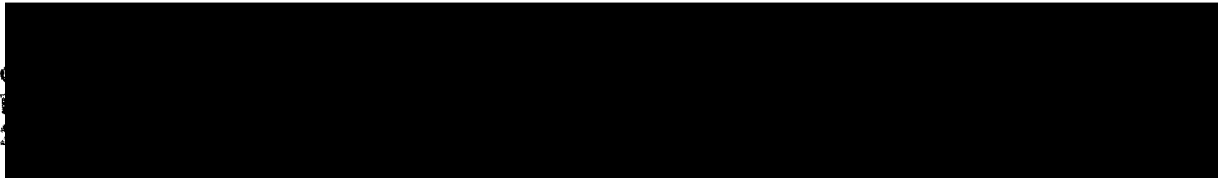
3. In connection with the Atlas of Soviet Administrative Maps, the disclaimer note regarding U.S. recognition of boundaries on the index map was felt to be insufficient to avoid criticism; also, it was thought a similar, perhaps more specific, statement in the introduction should be included. The matter was pursued in the form of a question to Dr. Hodgson, IRC/GE, Department of State, which has resulted in a memorandum defining the Department's position in this particular case, i.e., that a disclaimer note had to be affixed to each of the 117 sheets in the atlas. In subsequent discussions, it was decided that it would be desirable also to revise the title and introduction to avoid any statement that could be construed as U.S. recognition of the incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and the acceptance of certain other boundaries.

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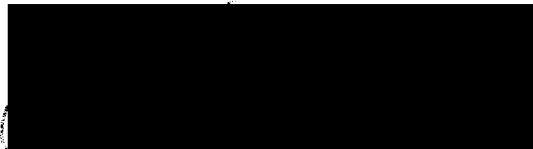
E. Miscellaneous



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2. Arrangements have been made to cover the Geography Division room in the Special Center following the departure of [redacted] last month.

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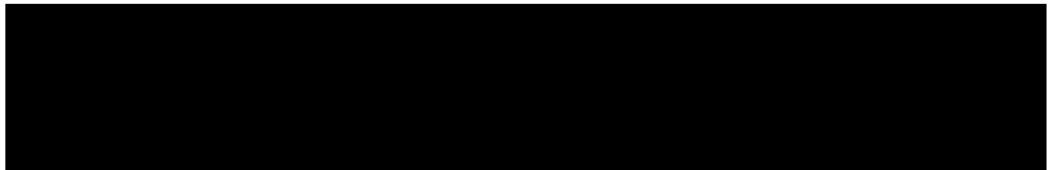
26 February 1960

Chief/G

GRA Contribution to DD/I Newsletter for Month of February 1960

The following item is suggested for inclusion in the DD/I Newsletter for February 1960:

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25X1A9a this formal course work, [redacted] will travel to several West European countries to survey selected cartographic installations.

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Distribution:

O&I - Addressee

2 - Ch/G

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